REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicants appreciate the allowance of Claims 8, 9, 10, 12, 13 and 14. Rejected claims 1-6 and 15-20 have been amended such that they now depend, directly or ultimately, on allowable independent claim 9 and are thus now allowable. Claim 21 has been cancelled.

As all pending claims are now allowable a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND, MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.

(45-46-

 $\begin{array}{c} \text{Customer Number} \\ 22850 \end{array}$

Tel: (703) 413-3000 Fax: (703) 413 -2220 (OSMMN 06/04) Richard L. Treanor Attorney of Record Registration No. 36,379